



# MONTHLY OCTOBER 2005 UPDATE

## ◆ *Extraordinary Stories*

**A Lecture Series Featuring  
People With Disabilities**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2005**

**3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Maryland State House  
100 State Circle, Annapolis

### *Featuring...*

◆ **The Honorable Paul Garvey Goetzke**  
Circuit Court Judge for Anne Arundel Co.

◆ **Lucy Gilmore**  
Champion Swimmer

◆ **Fred Beam**  
Professional Dancer

### *with Keynote Speaker*

**Dr. Margaret Giannini, Director**  
Office on Disability  
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Free admission. To RSVP or for information  
call 410-767-3660 voice/tty or email  
nbrittingham@mdod.state.md.us. Interpreters and ALD Device will  
be provided. For accommodations, contact the Department by  
October 18, 2005.



◆ *Empowering People* ◆

**Governor Ehrlich  
Announces \$13.5 Million  
Mental Health Grant**

**Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.** announced last week that Maryland has been awarded a **Mental Health Transformation Grant** of \$13.5 million over five years from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The funding will spur improvements in the delivery of mental health services in Maryland.

The grant was submitted by the **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**, the **Governor's Office for Children**, and the **Maryland Department of Disabilities** and represents the effectiveness of true interagency collaboration.

**"My Administration is deeply committed to empowering mental health providers to better care for their patients," said Governor Ehrlich.**

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## ◆ Mass Transit Administration Unveils New Ticket Centers

Throughout the fall, existing Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) will be replaced by newer, more user-friendly machines at all Baltimore light rail stations. The Touch 'n Go Ticket Centers feature tactile strips with Braille and raised letters. Consumers press the audio button at the bottom left of the machine to hear instructions. This button can be pressed twice to adjust the volume. The machines also include easy-to-reach operating features, making them accessible to individuals with disabilities.

For more information about this and other MTA innovations call 1-866-RIDE MTA or visit their website at [www.mdtransitpass.com](http://www.mdtransitpass.com).



## ◆ Eighth Annual Respite Awareness Conference

The **Maryland Respite Care Coalition** (MRCC) will present its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Respite Awareness Day Conference on **Oct. 24, 2005** at the Maritime Institute of Technology in Linthicum Heights beginning at 8 a.m.

**"Respite: Take Time to Take Time"** is the theme of this year's conference. The conference will help family caregivers find and identify suitable respite providers and support services to aid them in caring for their relatives. Conference workshops are designed to help instruct, guide and provide information to family caregivers and professionals. Exhibitors from government agencies, private companies and non-profit service groups involved with giving support and resources to caregivers will be available for useful consultation and guidance.

Advanced registration is preferred, but registration is also available at the door. For additional information, special accommodations or assistance, contact: John Garrett at Maryland Respite Care Coalition, Inc. (MRCC) at 877-413-3088, ext. 126 or [jgarrett@arcsomd.org](mailto:jgarrett@arcsomd.org).

## ◆ Mental Health Grant *(continued from front)*

"This grant is yet another step in that direction and builds on our considerable successes to date in providing the best mental health care possible in Maryland."

The Mental Health Transformation Grant, awarded to only seven states in the country, will support an array of infrastructure and service delivery improvements to help Maryland build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining effective mental health and related services. It is unique in that it will allow Maryland to support new and expanded planning and development to promote transformations to systems explicitly designed to foster recovery and meet the multiple needs of consumers. The grant's efforts will be incorporated into the State Disabilities Plan.

A Transformation Work Group, led by DHMH **Secretary S. Anthony McCann**, will be created to bring together a coalition of government leaders, including Department of Disabilities **Secretary Kristen Cox** and Governor's Office for Children **Executive Director Arlene F. Lee**. Other senior state officials, along with leaders in the consumer, family and mental health advocacy movements, will facilitate deep and lasting change in the way services are delivered.

"I am pleased to advance Governor Ehrlich's vision to end the stigma placed on people with mental health disabilities," said Secretary McCann. "This partnership among DHMH, the Department of Disabilities and the Governor's Office for Children will keep Maryland in the forefront in the delivery of mental health services."